

# South Carolina's Mercury Switch Removal Program

Environmental Assistance Conference  
October 29, 2008



# Mercury Switches

- In convenience lights (hood, trunk, doors and vanity mirror)
- In ABS G-force sensors
- In air bag crash sensors
- Cars built prior to 2003
- Other items





# Switches Found In

- Audi
- Daimler Chrysler
- Ford
- General Motors
- Lexus
- Mazda
- Mercedes-Benz
- Mitsubishi
- Nissan
- Porsche
- Subaru
- Toyota
- Volvo

# Why are Switches a Problem?

- Roughly 13.5 million automobiles are recycled annually
- Dismantlers remove parts and flatten
- Scrap recyclers shred
- Steelmakers melt scrap and make new products
- An estimated 67 million switches are available for recovery!

# The S.C. Law

*“No person shall knowingly place an end-of-life vehicle into the production stream for a steel recycling facility in South Carolina containing a mercury switch, as defined in this section.”*

Section 44-96-185

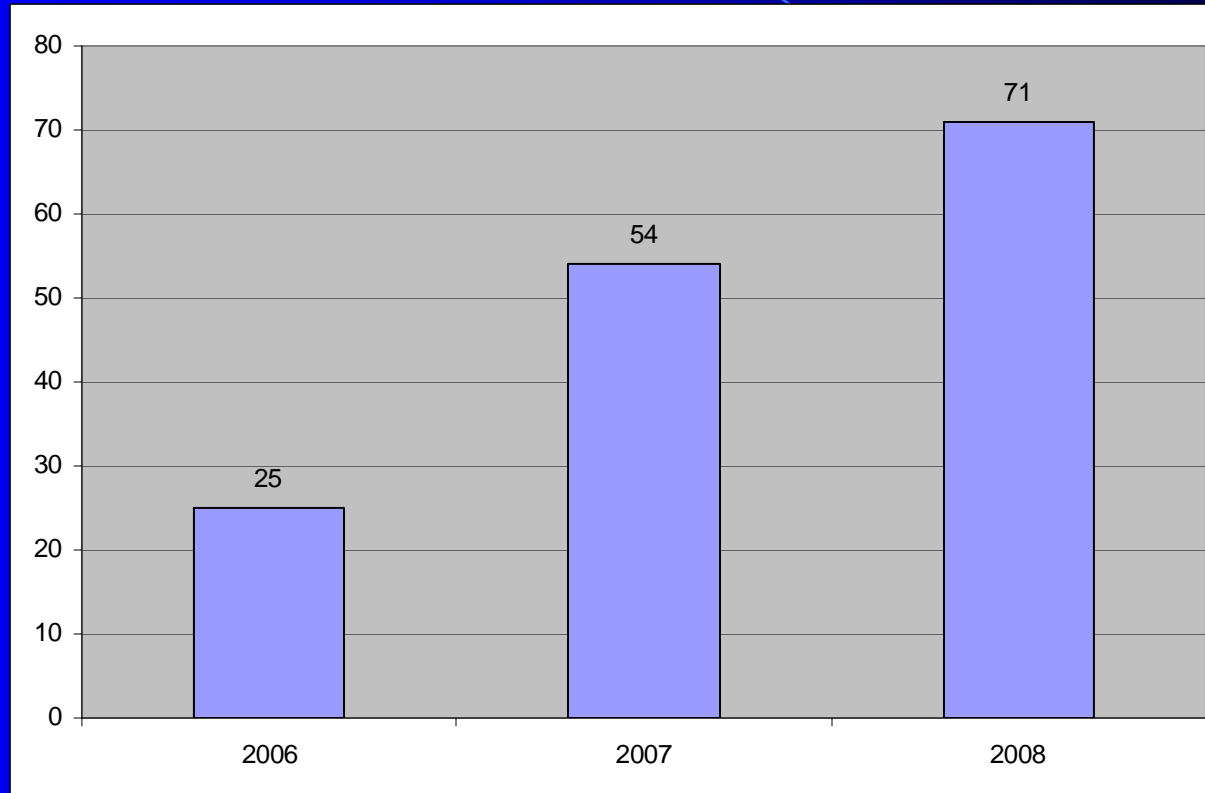
# The Law Continued ...

- Automobile manufacturers fund recovery program
- End-of-Life Vehicle Solutions (ELVS) plays key role
- Violators may be subject to a fine
- Tax credit of \$2.50 per mercury switch collected is available to vehicle recyclers or scrap recycling facilities

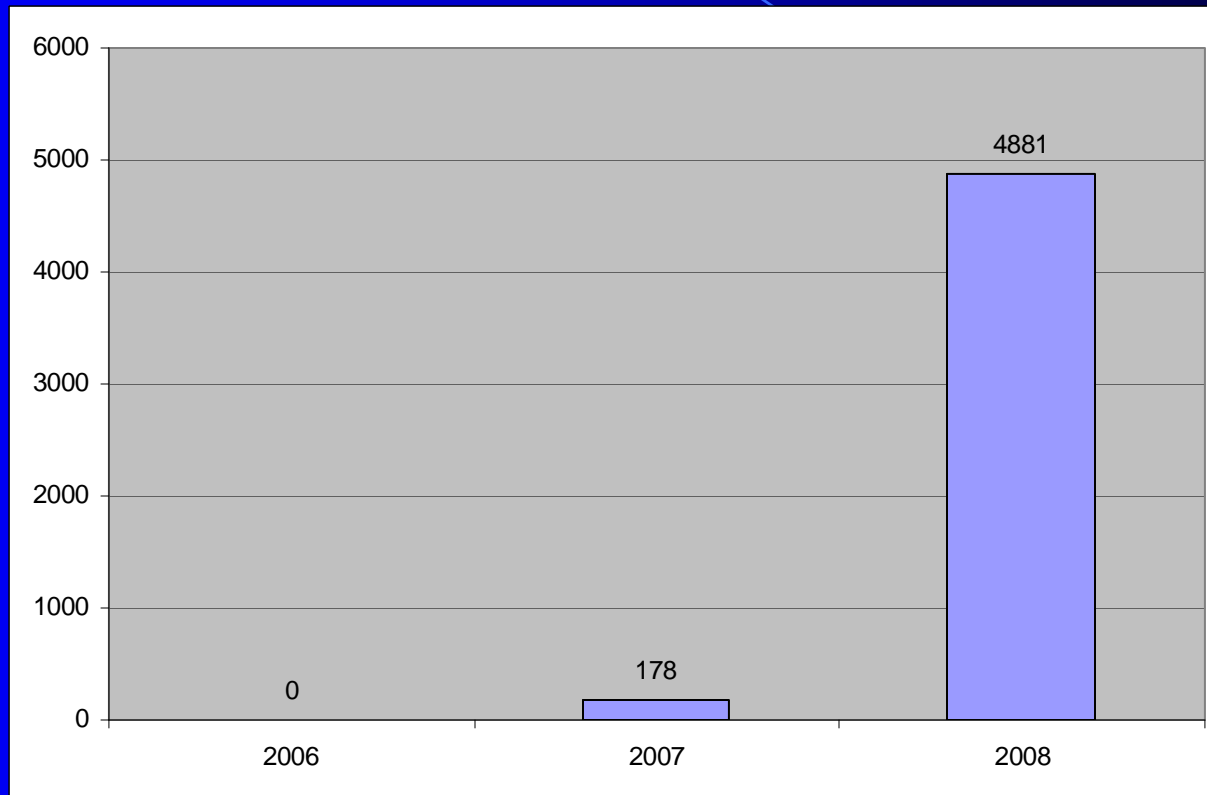




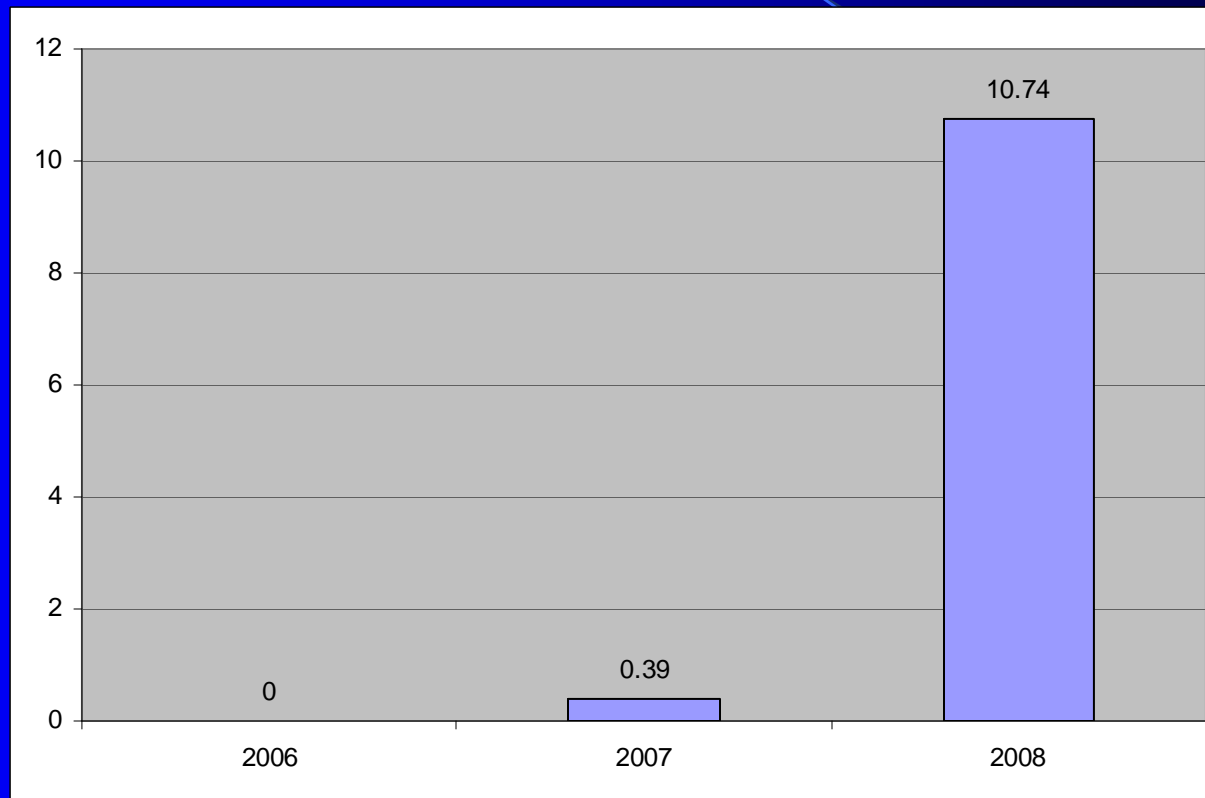
# Number of S.C. Participants



# Switches Recovered in S.C.



# Mercury Recovered in S.C. (in pounds)



# U.S. EPA

- National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program (8/06)
  - All states except ME part of
  - 1 millionth switch collected in 2/08
- Significant New Use Rule (10/07)
- Air Toxics Standard for EAFs (12/07)

# More Information

- End-of-Life Vehicle Solutions
  - [www.elvsolutions.org](http://www.elvsolutions.org)
- The Environmental Quality Company
  - [www.eqonline.com](http://www.eqonline.com)

# More Information

Eric Melaro  
melaroew@dhec.sc.gov  
1-800-768-7348

[www.scdhec.gov/recycle](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle)

